

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 were previously pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicant is canceling claims 1, 12, 14, and 21 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2-4, 6-9, 11, 13, 15, 17-20 have been amended. New claims 22-26 have been added. As a result, claims 2-11, 13, 15-20, and 22-26 are pending for examination with claims 3, 4, 7, 15 and 25 being independent claims. No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of these amendments and the following arguments.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is noted with appreciation that claims 4, 5, 15 and 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims.

Allowable claim 4 has been substantially rewritten into independent form to include the limitations of claims 1 and 3, except that rewritten claim 4 does not include the limitation that the insert is formed of a substantially shatterproof material. It is believed that claim 4 is still allowable over the cited art, even without this limitation. It is believed that this limitation is not necessary to distinguish over the prior art, because the Office Action states that the primary reference, Schlicht (U.S. Patent No. 5,123,211), shows an insert made of a shatterproof material. (See page 2 of the Office Action). However, Applicant has added new dependent claim 26, which depends from rewritten claim 4 and further recites the limitation that the insert is formed of a substantially shatterproof material.

Allowable claim 15 has also been substantially rewritten into independent form to include the limitations of claims 12 and 14, except that for clarification, rewritten claim 15 has been amended to replace "raised portion" which appeared on lines 4 and 5 of claim 12, with "projecting portion," so that the claim is internally consistent. Also, for clarity, both claims 4 and 15 have been amended to replace "the" with "an" when referring to the outermost concentric ring.

Applicant has not amended claims 5 or 16 because they depend from claims 4 and 15, respectively, and it is believed that these claims remain allowable.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3, 6, 8-14, 17, and 19-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Schlicht (U.S. Patent No. 5,123,211). Without agreeing that the rejection thereof is correct, Applicant has canceled independent claims 1, 12 and 21, and dependent claim 14 only to expedite prosecution and place this application in condition for allowance. Applicant has amended claim 3 to be in independent form, and to more clearly distinguish over Schlicht.

As amended, independent claim 3 is directed to an insert for placement in a door light. The insert includes a substantially planar top surface defining a plane, and a raised portion at least partially surrounded by the planar surface, the raised portion including at least two features extending above the plane of the planar top surface, and the raised portion having a substantially uniform configuration. The raised portion includes at least two raised concentric rings substantially centered on the insert.

Schlicht relates to a garage door lite assembly 16 having a rectangular frame 18 which fits into a door panel 14. A glazing panel 20 fits within the frame and a decorative trim panel 22 is inserted into the frame overlying the glazing panel. The trim panel 22 includes a body portion 44 having various apertures 48 to provide the overall desired appearance. The periphery of the trim panel includes an L-shaped marginal portion 46 which fits into the channel 26 along the frame.

The assembly in Schlicht fails to disclose *a raised portion including at least two raised concentric rings substantially centered on the insert*, as recited in amended claim 1. The Office Action states that Schlicht discloses a raised portion in Fig. 11 which illustrates spaced triangular embossments 48b. The Office Action states that the at least two features extending above the plane of the planar top surface are illustrated in Figs. 11-13, and points to the height difference between two portions of the trim panel illustrated in Fig. 12. Even if one were to agree that Schlicht discloses at least two raised portions extending above the plane of the planar top surface, Schlicht fails to show at least two raised concentric rings substantially centered on the insert. For at least this reason, claim 3, as amended, is patentable over Schlicht.

Applicant has amended claims 2, 6, 8, 9, and 11 to now depend from independent claim 3, and are patentable for at least the same reasons. Claim 10 depends on claim 9 and is also patentable for at least the same reasons.

Applicant has also amended claim 13, 17, 19 and 20 to now depend from allowable claim 15, which as stated above, was rewritten into independent form.

Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Applicant reserves the right to file one or more divisional or continuation applications directed to the rejected claims and/or any other canceled subject matter.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 7 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Schlicht et al. in view of Nadius (U.S. Patent No. 3,918,226).

Applicant has amended claim 7 to be in independent form, and to more distinctly claim the invention in a way that is not limiting or narrowing in scope. Accordingly, amended claim 7 more clearly distinguishes over Schlicht and Nadius. Amended claim 7 includes the limitations of claims 1 and 6, except that rewritten claim 7 does not include the limitation that the insert is formed of a substantially shatterproof material, or that the maximum height of the raised portion is at least one-quarter the thickness of the insert. It is believed that claim 7 is allowable over the cited art, even without these limitations. For clarification, claim 7 has been amended to recite that the raised portion has a plurality of peaks, and the height of the peaks decreases at a constant rate in a radial direction from the maximum height toward an outer edge of the raised portion.

As amended, independent claim 7 is directed to an insert for placement in a door light. The insert includes a substantially planar top surface defining a plane, and a raised portion at least partially surrounded by the planar surface. The raised portion includes at least two features extending above the plane of the planar top surface and the raised portion has a substantially uniform configuration. The raised portion has a plurality of peaks, where the maximum height of the peaks is substantially centered on the raised portion, and the height of the peaks of the raised portion decrease at a constant rate in a radial direction from the maximum height toward an outer edge of the raised portion.

Schlicht is discussed above.

Nadius is directed to building materials for use in roofing or panel applications. In particular, Nadius discloses an enclosure panel 8 which is formed into a dome-like structure having a plurality of convex peaks 10 within a flange 18. Each peak is located within a triangular section of the panel and the peaks slope toward each other forming troughs 12 which

meet at the center axis 20. The troughs 12 extend diagonally through the panel emanating from the center of the panel 8.

The Office Action contends that Figs. 3 and 4 in Nadius disclose an insert where the maximum height is centered on the raised portion and the height of the raised portion decreases at a constant rate toward an outer edge. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Figs. 3 and 4 in Nadius are cross-sectional views of Fig. 2. As illustrated in Fig. 2, the peaks 10 are not centered on the raised portion of the panel 8. Rather, in Nadius, the center of the panel 8 is a low point, where the two troughs 12 intersect. Accordingly, Nadius fails to disclose *an insert where the maximum height of the peaks is substantially centered on the raised portion*, as recited in claim 7. As amended, claim 7 further distinguishes over the prior art by reciting that the raised portion has a plurality of peaks, where the maximum height of the peaks is substantially centered on the raised portion, and the height of the peaks of the raised portion decreases at a constant rate in a radial direction from the maximum height toward an outer edge of the raised portion.

As amended, claim 18 depends from allowable claim 15 and is patentable for at least the same reasons. However, for clarification, claim 18 has also been amended to recite that the projecting portion has a plurality of peaks, where the height of the peaks decreases at a constant rate in a radial direction from the maximum height toward an outer edge of the projecting portion. Also, for clarity, both claims 7 and 18 have been amended to replace “the” with “a” when referring initially to both the maximum height of the peaks and also to the height of the peaks.

Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

New Claims

Applicant has added new claims 22-26, including independent claim 25 to further define aspects of the invention. Support for the new claims may be found at least on page 8, line 11- page 9, line 9, page 9, line 25-29, and Figs. 6-10.

New claims 22-24 depend on claim 3 and are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Independent claim 25 is similar in content to original claim 3 as filed, except that it does not include the limitation that the insert is formed of a substantially shatterproof material. Claim 25 further recites that the two raised concentric rings define an inner ring and an outer ring, where the maximum height of the inner ring is greater than the maximum height of the outer

ring. The cited prior art fails to disclose or suggest an inner ring having a maximum height that is greater than the maximum height of an outer ring, where the rings are substantially uniform.

As discussed above, new claim 26 depends from claim 4 and is patentable for at least the same reasons.

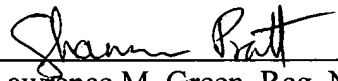
CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,

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